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PRESS RELEASE

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LACDMH ACQUIRES COST-SAVING, PAPERLESS TECHNOLOGY TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF CARE FOR LA COUNTY RESIDENTS

Supervisors approves \$93M contract to upgrade, integrate and streamline health care services.

Los Angeles, CA – On October 18, 2011, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors approved an agreement with Netsmart Technologies, Inc., to provide a state-of-the-art electronic health record system, known as the Integrated Behavioral Health Information System (IBHIS). IBHIS supports the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health (LACDMH) in its role as a provider of mental health services and as the local plan administrator for California's Medicaid mental health program.

“We are excited that the Board of Supervisors has approved this agreement,” said LACDMH Director, Marvin Southard, D.S.W. “This will allow us to apply the most advanced technology to support the work and partnerships that create hope, wellness and recovery in the lives of clients and their families.”

Health Care Reform requires providers to work more efficiently and coordinate care across the different domains of health care. Several years ago, LACDMH began the process of eliminating paper health records ahead of the federal deadlines set by the Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health Act, enacted as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which penalizes organizations that are not using an electronic health record system by 2015 for Medicare providers.

With IBHIS, LACDMH will have the benefit of the clinical, financial and administrative functionality for about the same average annual cost as its current system that only processes health care claims. The \$93M agreement with Netsmart has a term of approximately 11 years.

(More)

The Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health is the largest county-operated mental health department in the United States, directly operating 75 program sites and more than 100 co-located sites. Each year, it contracts with approximately 1,000 agencies and individual practitioners to provide a spectrum of mental health services to more than 250,000 residents of all ages. The Department's mission -- enriching lives through partnership to strengthen our community's capacity to support recovery and resiliency -- is accomplished by working with stakeholders and community partners to provide clinically competent, culturally sensitive and linguistically appropriate mental health services to clients in the least restrictive manner possible.

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